

14 November 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, [redacted] 3.5(c)

THROUGH : Chief, [redacted] 3.5(c)

FROM : Acting Chief, [redacted] 3.5(c)

SUBJECT : The Crossover - VC/NVA Manpower Balance

1. Attached are some materials on VC/NVA manpower. Although the problem of estimating enemy OB and trends in SVN remains a prime intelligence problem, a number of useful generalizations can be made.

2. In general, we believe that the crossover point has probably been reached, but the sharpness of the break and the rate of the trend are much less pronounced than the MACV materials indicate. Recruitment has probably been at a rate closer to the one we present here than that proposed by MACV. But, because recruitment includes upgrading and NVA replacements are not used as irregulars, the latter have borne a large part of net attrition. The administrative support structure would appear to have absorbed the remainder of net attrition. Fighting units seem to be performing more of their own support and external administrative support has grown as increasing numbers of NVA troops have been used in the border areas where most of them fight.

3. As one of the attached pieces explains, we cannot be certain that the number of Main and Local Force troops has declined.

4. Although the enemy is probably suffering some net attrition now, his forces seem to have increased during most of 1966 and an increase in infiltration on the order of 2,000 per month might redress the balance even now.

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Attachment:
As stated.

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OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

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Remarks:

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